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Message Text

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21
ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 SAB-01 SAM-01 /075 W
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R 120900Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6145
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 2226

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: UN, PFOR
SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S JULY 14 SPEECH ON UN

REF: STATE 170841 SANA 2067 & 2135

1. SUMMARY: DISCUSSED STATE REFTEL IN DETAIL YESTERDAY WITH FONMIN ASNAG, WHO WILL LEAD YAR DELEGATION AT UN. HE WISHES TO REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH US ON UPCOMING UN ISSUES, AND SAID HE WILL APPROACH PRESIDENT HAMDI CONCERNING A LETTER TO SECRETARY ON SUBJECT. HE NOTED THAT YAR HAS LITTLE ROOM FOR INITIATIVE, EITHER WITHIN UN OR WITHIN ARAB BLOC BUT I BELIEVE HE WILL TAKE THE PERSONAL AND DIRECT INTEREST THAT WE SEEK IN MAINTAINING FLEX-IBILITY IN YAR POSITION PRIOR TO UPCOMING UN SESSIONS.

2. I PASSED ASNAG TEXT IN ARABIC OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH AND WENT OVER MAIN POINTS, DRAWING ON STATE REFTEL. ASNAG INTERRUPTED ME AT ONE POINT TO SAY THAT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY'S SPEECH AT TIME JIDDA ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HAD OBVIOUSLY GIVEN HIM ONESIDED VIEW OF US VIEWS. HE LISTENED CAREFULLY, AND TOOK SPECIAL INTEREST IN SECRETARY'S STATED INTENTION TO CONTRIBUTE PRACTICAL PROPOSALS OF MUTUAL BENEFIT TO DC'S AND LDC'S. HE SAID THAT HE TOO PUTS A VERY HIGH VALUE ON ROLES OF UN IN PEACE-KEEPING
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AND HANDLING GLOBAL ECONOMIC AND OTHER ISSUES. HE RECOGNIZES,

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HE SAID, DANGER TO UN SYSTEM AND, UNLIKE JAGHMAN
(SANA 2135) ASNAG SHOWS NO INCLINATION TO FIX BLAME ON US.

3. MOREOVER, AS ADROIT PRACTICAL TACTICIAN, ASNAG RECOGNIZES
THAT THERE IS NO PRACTTICAL VALUE TO EXPULSION OR SUSPENSION
OF SOVEREIGN STATE FROM WORLD BODY WHICH HAS, FOR MOST PART,
ONLY MORAL OR HORTATORY INFLUENCE OVER MEMBER STATES WHERE
THEIR VITAL INTERESTS ARE CONCERNED. HOWEVER, ASNAG STATED
THAT THERE IS ALSO POTENTIAL DAMAGE TO UN FROM ISRAELI NON-
COMPLIANCE WITH RESOLUTIONS. HOWEVER, HE NODDED WHEN I
SAID UN HAD VITAL ROLE TO PLAY IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE SETTLEMENT
AND EFFORTS TO EXPEL ISRAEL WOULD ONLY PLAY INTO HANDS
OF THOSE ARABS AND PERHAPS SOME ISRAELIS WHO OPPOSED NEGOTIATED
SETTLEMENT.

4. ASNAG SAID YAR WAS SMALL
COUNTRY, AND HAD TO THINK CHIEFLY OF ITS RELATIONS WITH SAUDI
ARABIA, BUT IT ALSO PUT HIGH VALUE ON US AND UN AND WOULD TRY,
IN THIS CASE, TO STEER A MIDDLE COURSE. HE SAID THEREFORE
THAT HE WOULD APPROACH PRESIDENT HAMDI ABOUT A
LETTER TO THE SECRETARY WHICH, ASNAG IMPLIED, WOULD STAKE OUT
A POSITION OF RELATIVE INDEPENDENCE FOR YAR.

5. COMMENT: I BELIEVE THIS MEANS THAT ASNAG IS
INTENT ON DOING WHAT HE CAN TO MAINTAIN YAR FLEXIBILITY
ON UN ISSUES. LETTER, IF IT MATERIALIZES, MAY ALLOW
US PRIOR TO UN SESSIONS, TO GO BACK TO YEMENIS TO
SEEK DEFINITE SUPPORT ON PARTICULAR ISSUES. I DOUBT THAT
YAR WILL WANT TO DRIFT FAR FROM SAUDI OR EGYPTIAN POSITIONS
BUT ASNAG CLEARLY WANTS TO PLAY RESPONSIBLE ROLE.
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